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EXAMINER	
HANNETT, JAMES M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2612	

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/923,820	NOVAK, ROBERT E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James M. Hannett	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 June 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14,16-29,31,32,34,35,37-54,56-68,70-75 and 77-87* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *23-29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37-43 and 81-84* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14,16-22,44-54,56-68,70-75,77-80 and 85-87* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *08 June 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/8/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues the prior art does not teach performing distortion compensation. The applicant further argues that Dulin does not disclose this feature because dunlin's images are not "distorted" within any reasonable meaning of the term.

The examiner disagrees with the applicant and views the claims broadly. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 51-63 the process of performing correction of the edges of the selected image. This process is viewed by the examiner as distortion compensation performed as a result of the edges of the images being warped by the lens.

The applicant argues that the prior art does not teach the use of individually transmitting each of the subsets of distortion compensated data to the different users on the network.

The examiner disagrees and points out that Dulin et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 45-63 that different users on the network can receive different regions of the image data.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 44-59-69, 70-77, and 79 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1: Claims 1, 4-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 44-46, 49, 51, 52, 56-59, 62, 64, 65, 68, 70, 72, 73, 77-80, 85 and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al.

2: As for Claim 1, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a wide-angle lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing compression, edge correction, and warping is viewed by the examiner to be additional processing. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4,

Lines 51-63 the process of performing correction of the edges of the selected image. This process is viewed by the examiner as additional processing. Furthermore, this process is viewed as performing distortion compensation on the elected subset of the digital scene image data.

3: In regards to Claim 4, Dulin et al teaches on Column 1, Lines 54-65 that the subsets correspond to a focus area in the scene. Dulin et al teaches that due to the wide field of view of the camera the entire wide image is in focus. Dulin et al further teaches that all of the regions selected by the users correspond to regions within the in focus wide field of view image.

4: As for Claim 5, Dulin et al teaches on column 2, Lines 43-52 the camera is used to transmit images on a network. Dulin et al teaches that the images can be transmitted over the Internet. It is viewed by the examiner that the internet is a network.

5: In regards to Claim 6, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 the camera is communicatively coupled to a set top box that is capable of transmitting images over data streams in a network. Dulin et al teaches that image data is collected from a high definition camera and is then digitized and stored image memory. Dulin et al teaches that after the image data is stored image circuitry is used which performs compression and edge correction and transmits a selected region of the image based on a signal from a remote user. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the processing and transmitting is performed in **a set top box**. However, it is viewed by the examiner that the term **set top box** is extremely broad. Furthermore, the examiner views the device that performs the compression and transmitting as being a set top box.

6: As for Claim 7, Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-67 the selecting the subsets is controlled by a set top box that is capable to transmit images across a network. Dulin et al

teaches that after the image is digitized and stored in memory, the remote users can select a window of the image to be transmitted to them. Then processing circuitry is used to select the subset of the image and transmit the image over the internet to the remote users. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the selecting the subsets and transmitting is performed in **a set top box**. However, it is viewed by the examiner that the term **set top box** is extremely broad. Furthermore, the examiner views the device that performs the selection and transmitting as being a set top box.

7: In regards to Claim 8, Dulin et al teaches on column 2, Lines 43-52 the camera is used to transmit images on a network. Dulin et al teaches selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data. The limitation that selection the subsets is controlled by the camera is very broad. Furthermore, the examiner asserts that the camera can be viewed as the entire system, Therefore, the camera controls the selecting of the subsets.

8: As for Claim 9, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-60 the selecting the subsets is controlled by a processor device. Dulin et al teaches that the selecting is performed by processing. Therefore, Dulin et al teaches that the selecting of the subsets is controlled by a processor device.

9: In regards to Claim 10, Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping (distortion compensation). The Examiner views compression, edge correction, and warping as requiring processing (distortion compensation). Therefore, the compression, edge correction, and warping is controlled by a processor device.

10: As for Claim 11, Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing distortion compensation on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping before it is transmitted on the internet. The Examiner views compression, edge correction, and warping as distortion compensation. Therefore, the compression, edge correction, and warping is controlled by a processor device. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the selecting the additional processing is performed in **a set top box**. However, it is viewed by the examiner that the term **set top box** is extremely broad. Furthermore, the examiner views the device that performs the additional processing and transmitting as being a set top box.

11: In regards to Claim 12, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a camera captures a digital image and then stores the digital image in a system in which remote users can send a command to have a subset of the image transmitted to them remotely over the internet. Therefore, Dulin et al teaches the use of a camera, a system that performs selection of the subsets and a transmitter. Although Dulin et al does not recite the specific words set top box and companion box, the examiner asserts that the applicant does not limit these terms in the claim and that they are viewed by the examiner as being extremely broad. In the system of Dulin et al, the camera is communicatively coupled to a companion box (which is viewed by the examiner as being the circuitry to control selection of the subsets and compression). Furthermore after the image data is compressed it is sent to a transmitter that transmits the data over the internet. Therefore, the circuitry that compresses the data controls the transmitter in that the transmitter does not transmit data until it is compressed. Furthermore, the examiner views the transmitting device to be viewed as a set top box.

12: As for Claim 13, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a camera captures a digital image and then stores the digital image in a system in which remote users can send a command to have a subset of the image transmitted to them remotely over the internet. Therefore, Dulin et al teaches the use of a camera, a system that performs selection of the subsets and a transmitter. Although Dulin et al does not recite the specific words set top box and companion box, the examiner asserts that the applicant does not limit these terms in the claim and that they are viewed by the examiner as being extremely broad. In the system of Dulin et al, the camera is communicatively coupled to a companion box (which is viewed by the examiner as being the circuitry to control selection of the subsets and compression). Furthermore after the image data is compressed it is sent to a transmitter that transmits the data over the internet. Therefore, the circuitry that compresses the data controls the transmitter in that the transmitter does not transmit data until it is compressed. Furthermore, the examiner views the transmitting device to be viewed as a set top box.

13: In regards to Claim 14, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a camera captures a digital image and then stores the digital image in a system in which remote users can send a command to have a subset of the image transmitted to them remotely over the internet. Therefore, Dulin et al teaches the use of a camera, a system that performs selection of the subsets, a system for performing compression and edge correction processing, and a transmitter. Although Dulin et al does not recite the specific words set top box and companion box, the examiner asserts that the applicant does not limit these terms in the claim and that they are viewed by the examiner as being extremely broad. In the system of Dulin et al, the camera is communicatively coupled to a companion box (which is viewed by the examiner as being the circuitry to perform compression

and edge correction). Furthermore after the image data is compressed it is sent to a transmitter that transmits the data over the internet. Therefore, the circuitry that compresses the data controls the transmitter in that the transmitter does not transmit data until it is compressed. Furthermore, the examiner views the transmitting device to be viewed as a set top box.

14: In regards to Claim 16, Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 51-67 the process of performing compression on the selected image (subset). Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches this process can be repeated for several images. Therefore, the Examiner views that subsets are compressed.

15: As for Claim 17, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 53-60 transmitting the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data to a destination device. The destination device is viewed by the examiner as the remote user on a home computer.

16: In regards to Claim 19, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 wherein one of the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data is selected based on a location relative to another one of the selected subsets. The examiner asserts that all of the possible selected regions of the image will be in a location that is relative to all of the other subsets.

17: As for Claim 20, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 that a signal is received from a remote user and a region of the high definition image is selected based on the signal received from the user. This is viewed by the examiner as a command signal.

18: As for Claim 45, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; This wide-field of vision camera is viewed by the examiner as a fish-eye lens camera. (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of

capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a wide-angle lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction, and warping is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation.

19: In regards to Claim 46, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a fish-eye lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the

examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction (distortion compensation), and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing image correction performing distortion compensation.. Dulin et al does not specifically state that a webcam engine is used to select the plurality of subsets. However, Dulin et al does state that the subsets can be selected by users over the internet. Therefore, it is viewed by the examiner that the circuitry to select the subsets is a webcam engine since it is used over the internet.

20: As for Claim 49, Dulin et al teaches on Column 1, Lines 54-65 that the subsets correspond to a focus area in the scene. Dulin et al teaches that due to the wide field of view of the camera the entire wide image is in focus. Dulin et al further teaches that all of the regions selected by the users correspond to regions within the in focus wide field of view image.

21: In regards to Claim 51, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 wherein one of the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data is selected based on a location relative to another one of the selected subsets. The examiner asserts that all of the possible selected regions of the image will be in a location that is relative to all of the other subsets.

22: As for Claim 52, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 that a signal is received from a remote user and a region of the high definition image is selected based on the signal received from the user. This is viewed by the examiner as a command signal.

23: As for Claim 56, The examiner views the limitation "the unit is a set top box" as extremely broad and therefore, views the system to perform region selection, compression and transmitting as being a set top box.

24: In regards to Claim 57, Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Therefore, the examiner views the circuitry and software used to perform these processes as being a processor.

25: As for Claim 58, The examiner views the limitation "the unit is a companion box" as extremely broad and therefore, views the system to perform region selection, compression and transmitting as being a companion box.

26: As for Claim 78, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the

examiner as a fish-eye lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation.

27: As for Claim 80, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 45-63 sending each subscriber a signal addressed specifically to the user. Further the regions transmitted can be different for each user. Dulin et al teaches that as the number of users increase, the amount of bandwidth

required also increases. Therefore, simultaneously displaying multiple subsets of the digitized scene image data.

28: In regards to Claim 85, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 45-63 sending each subscriber a signal addressed specifically to the user. Further the regions transmitted can be different for each user. Dulin et al teaches that as the number of users increase, the amount of bandwidth required also increases. Therefore, simultaneously displaying multiple subsets of the digitized scene image data.

29: As for Claim 86, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 45-63 sending each subscriber a signal addressed specifically to the user. Further the regions transmitted can be different for each user. Dulin et al teaches that as the number of users increase, the amount of bandwidth required also increases. Therefore, simultaneously displaying multiple subsets of the digitized scene image data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

30: Claims 2 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al.

31: As for Claim 2, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the plurality of regions selected by the users are selected serially. Furthermore, if the users select the regions at different instances in times, the regions would be selected serially.

Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to allow users to select the images at different incidents in time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the users of the system of Dulin et al to select the regions at different times and therefore causing the regions to be selected serially.

32: As for Claim 47, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the plurality of regions selected by the users are selected serially. Furthermore, if the users select the regions at different instances in times, the regions would be selected serially.

Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to allow users to select the images at different incidents in time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the users of the system of Dulin et al to select the regions at different times and therefore causing the regions to be selected serially.

33: Claims 3, 21, 22, 48, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al in view of USPN 6,727,940 Oka et al.

34: As for Claim 3, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be integrated to form one integrated output image.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select a sub-region of an image. Oka et al teaches that in order to save bandwidth a composite output image (1504) which composes all of the regions selected by the users is formed and then the composite output image (1504) is output to all of the users. Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it simplifies the system design be allowing one image (1504) to be transmitted by the system. Furthermore, Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it reduces the required bandwidth of the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill I the art at the time the invention was made to enable the system of Dulin et al to form a composite image from all of the selected regions by the users as taught by Oka et al in order to simplify the system design and to reduce the required bandwidth of the system.

35: In regards to Claim 21, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can overlap as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1507). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

36: As for Claim 22, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the Internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be non-overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can be non-overlapping as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1508). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select non-overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different regions of the image at the same time.

37: As for Claim 48, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be integrated to form one integrated output image.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select a sub-region of an image. Oka et al teaches that in order to save bandwidth a composite output image (1504) which composes all of the regions selected by the users is formed and then the composite output image (1504) is output to all of the users. Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it simplifies the system design be allowing one image (1504) to be transmitted by the system. Furthermore, Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it reduces the required bandwidth of the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill I the art at the time the invention was made to enable the system of Dulin et al to form a composite image from all of the selected regions by the users as taught by Oka et al in order to simplify the system design and to reduce the required bandwidth of the system.

38: In regards to Claim 53, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can overlap as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1507). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

39: As for Claim 54, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the Internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be non-overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can be non-overlapping as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1508). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select non-overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different regions of the image at the same time.

40: Claims 18 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al in view of USPN 6,507,366 Lee.

41: As for Claim 18, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and subsets of the image are sent to remote users over the internet. Dulin et al teaches that the selected region is selected by a user over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the selected regions can be selected based on detected activity in the scene.

Lee teaches on Column 2, Line 66 – Column 3, Line 27 the use of a camera system in which a motion detector detects motion in a field of view of a camera and pans and tilts the camera accordingly so that the region that contains the activity is images by the camera. Lee teaches that this method is advantageous because it allows the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the users in the camera system of Dulin et al to automatically select the region (electronically control pan and tilt angle) of the image based on the detected activity in the scene as taught by Lee, In order to allow the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

42: As for Claim 50, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and subsets of the image are sent to remote users over the internet. Dulin et al teaches that the selected region is selected by a user over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the selected regions can be selected based on detected activity in the scene.

Lee teaches on Column 2, Line 66 – Column 3, Line 27 the use of a camera system in which a motion detector detects motion in a field of view of a camera and pans and tilts the camera accordingly so that the region that contains the activity is images by the camera. Lee teaches that this method is advantageous because it allows the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the users in the camera system of Dulin et al to automatically select the region (electronically control pan and tilt angle) of the image based on the detected activity in the scene as taught by Lee, In order to allow the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

43: Claims 44, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 68, 70, 72, 73, 77, 79 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al in view of USON 6,470,498 Reber el al.

44: In regards to Claim 44, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition

digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation. Dulin et al teaches the use of a wide field of view camera. However, Dulin et al is silent as to the angular field which the camera has and does not teach that the camera can be equipped with a wide angle lens with an angular field of view of at least 140 degrees.

Reber et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 41-47 that it was common practice at the time the invention was made to use wide angle lenses with an angular field of view of approximately 180 degrees.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wide angle-lens of Reber et al with a field of view of 180 degree in the imaging system of Dulin et al in order to increase the field of view of the camera and therefore capture more information to be used by the clients on the network.

45: In regards to Claim 59, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a

field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a wide-angle lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation. Dulin et al teaches the use of a wide field of view camera. However, Dulin et al is silent as to the angular field which the camera has and does not teach that the camera can be equipped with a wide angle lens with an angular field of view of at least 140 degrees.

Reber et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 41-47 that it was common practice at the time the invention was made to use wide angle lenses with an angular field of view of approximately 180 degrees.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wide angle-lens of Reber et al with a field of view of 180 degree in the imaging system of Dulin et al in order to increase the field of view of the camera and therefore capture more information to be used by the clients on the network.

46: In regards to Claim 60, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. Dulin et al does not specifically state that the plurality of regions selected by the users are selected serially. Furthermore, if the users select the regions at different instances in times, the regions would be selected serially.

Official notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made to allow users to select the images at different incidents in time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the users of the system of Dulin et al to select the regions at different times and therefore causing the regions to be selected serially.

47: As for Claim 62, Dulin et al teaches on Column 1, Lines 54-65 that the subsets correspond to a focus area in the scene. Dulin et al teaches that due to the wide field of view of the camera the entire wide image is in focus. Dulin et al further teaches that all of the regions selected by the users correspond to regions within the in focus wide field of view image.

48: In regards to Claim 64, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 wherein one of the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data is selected based on a location relative to another one of the selected subsets. The examiner asserts that all of the possible selected regions of the image will be in a location that is relative to all of the other subsets.

49: As for Claim 65, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 that a signal is received from a remote user and a region of the high definition image is selected based on the signal received from the user. This is viewed by the examiner as a command signal.

50: In regards to Claim 68, Dulin et al does not specifically state that a webcam engine is used to select the plurality of subsets. However, Dulin et al does state that the subsets can be selected by users over the internet. Therefore, it is viewed by the examiner that the circuitry to select the subsets is a webcam engine since it is used over the internet.

51: In regards to Claim 70, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a wide-angle lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al

teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al does not specifically state that a webcam engine is used to select the plurality of subsets. However, Dulin et al does state that the subsets can be selected by users over the internet. Therefore, it is viewed by the examiner that the circuitry to select the subsets is a webcam engine since it is used over the internet. Simulating a function of the digital camera is viewed as panning and tilting of the camera be selecting a region of the captured image. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation. Dulin et al teaches the use of a wide field of view camera. However, Dulin et al is silent as to the angular field which the camera has and does not teach that the camera can be equipped with a wide angle lens with an angular field of view of at least 140 degrees.

Reber et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 41-47 that it was common practice at the time the invention was made to use wide angle lenses with an angular field of view of approximately 180 degrees.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wide angle-lens of Reber et al with a field of view of 180 degree

in the imaging system of Dulin et al in order to increase the field of view of the camera and therefore capture more information to be used by the clients on the network.

52: As for Claim 72, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 wherein one of the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data is selected based on a location relative to another one of the selected subsets. The examiner asserts that all of the possible selected regions of the image will be in a location that is relative to all of the other subsets.

53: In regards to Claim 73, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 43-52 that a signal is received from a remote user and a region of the high definition image is selected based on the signal received from the user. This is viewed by the examiner as a command signal.

54: In regards to Claim 77, Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 53-60 transmitting the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data to a destination device. The destination device is viewed by the examiner as the remote user on a home computer.

55: In regards to Claim 79, Dulin et al teaches and depicts in Figures 5 and 6 a method of capturing an image by use of a camera (20), the method comprising: placing a scene within a field of vision of a wide angle lens coupled to the camera; (Column 1, Lines 37-53) Dulin et al teaches the use of capturing an image with a camera that has a large field of view. This is viewed by the examiner as a wide-angle lens camera. Dulin et al teaches on Column 2, Lines 14-20 storing image data of the scene in an image collection array. The image collection array is viewed by the examiner as the matrix of pixels in the image sensor. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 50-55 digitizing the scene image data into a digitized scene image data and storing the digitized scene image data in memory (22). Dulin et al teaches that the camera can supply a high definition digital signal to an image memory (22). Dulin et al teaches on Column

2, Lines 43-52 selecting a plurality of subsets of the digitized scene image data; Dulin et al teaches that if the communications link contains a return channel, the user can specify a fraction of the overall image which contains the window in which the user wishes to see. Furthermore, Dulin et al teaches that multiple users can select regions. This is viewed by the examiner as selecting a plurality of subsets of the image. Dulin et al teaches on Column 4, Lines 57-67 performing additional processing on the selected subsets of the digitized scene image data. Dulin et al teaches that before the selected images are transmitted to the client's the image data is subjected to compression, edge correction, and warping. Performing edge correction is viewed by the examiner as performing distortion compensation. Dulin et al teaches the use of a wide field of view camera. However, Dulin et al is silent as to the angular field which the camera has and does not teach that the camera can be equipped with a wide angle lens with an angular field of view of at least 140 degrees.

Reber et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 41-47 that it was common practice at the time the invention was made to use wide angle lenses with an angular field of view of approximately 180 degrees.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wide angle-lens of Reber et al with a field of view of 180 degree in the imaging system of Dulin et al in order to increase the field of view of the camera and therefore capture more information to be used by the clients on the network.

56: As for Claim 87: Dulin et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 45-63 performing compression on the subsets or regions of image data independently sent to the clients.

57: Claims 63 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al in view of USON 6,470,498 Reber el al in view of USPN 6,507,366 Lee.

58: In regards to Claim 63, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and subsets of the image are sent to remote users over the internet. Dulin et al teaches that the selected region is selected by a user over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the selected regions can be selected based on detected activity in the scene.

Lee teaches on Column 2, Line 66 – Column 3, Line 27 the use of a camera system in which a motion detector detects motion in a field of view of a camera and pans and tilts the camera accordingly so that the region that contains the activity is images by the camera. Lee teaches that this method is advantageous because it allows the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the users in the camera system of Dulin et al to automatically select the region (electronically control pan and tilt angle) of the image based on the detected activity in the scene as taught by Lee, In order to allow the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

59: As for Claim 71, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and subsets of the image are sent to remote users over the internet. Dulin et al teaches that the selected region is selected by a user over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the selected regions can be selected based on detected activity in the scene.

Lee teaches on Column 2, Line 66 – Column 3, Line 27 the use of a camera system in which a motion detector detects motion in a field of view of a camera and pans and tilts the

camera accordingly so that the region that contains the activity is images by the camera. Lee teaches that this method is advantageous because it allows the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the users in the camera system of Dulin et al to automatically select the region (electronically control pan and tilt angle) of the image based on the detected activity in the scene as taught by Lee, In order to allow the region of interest that contains the moving object to be the image that is captured by the camera.

60: Claims 61, 66, 67, 74 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,606,422 Dulin et al in view of USON 6,470,498 Reber el al in view of USPN 6,727,940 Oka et al

61: In regards to Claim 61, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be integrated to form one integrated output image.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select a sub-region of an image. Oka et al teaches that in order to save bandwidth a composite output image (1504) which composes all of the regions selected by the users is formed and then the composite output image (1504) is output to all of the users. Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it simplifies the system design

be allowing one image (1504) to be transmitted by the system. Furthermore, Oka et al teaches that this method is advantageous because it reduces the required bandwidth of the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill I the art at the time the invention was made to enable the system of Dulin et al to form a composite image from all of the selected regions by the users as taught by Oka et al in order to simplify the system design and to reduce the required bandwidth of the system.

62: As for Claim 66, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can overlap as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1507). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

63: In regards to Claim 67, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to

be transmitted to their individual computers over the Internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be non-overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can be non-overlapping as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1508). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select non-overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different regions of the image at the same time.

64: As for Claim 74, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can overlap as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1507). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that over lap so that different users will be able to view the same region of the image at the same time.

65: In regards to Claim 75, Dulin et al teaches a system in which a wide field of view image is captured by a camera and remote users over the Internet can select regions within the image to be transmitted to their individual computers over the Internet. However, Dulin et al does not teach that the regions selected by the remote users can be non-overlapping.

Oka et al teaches on Column 5, Lines 1-42 and depict in Figure 15B a system in which a plurality of users over a network can each select sub-regions of an image. Oka et al teaches that the regions selected by the user can be non-overlapping as depicted in Figure 15N by regions (1506 and 1508). It is advantageous to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different region of the image at the same time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the remote users in the system of Dulin et al to select non-overlapping regions as taught by Oka et al in order to allow the users to select regions that do not overlap so that different users will be able to view different regions of the image at the same time.

Allowable Subject Matter

66: Claims 23-29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37-43 and 81-84 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art teaches the use of a system in which image data collected from a wide-angle lens is

stored in memory. The prior art further teaches a system which allows remote users to select subsets of the image to be transmitter individually to each of the users corresponding computers on a network. Furthermore, the prior art teaches the use of distortion compensation. However, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the use of performing distortion compensation on the subsets of image data to correct for distortion caused by the wide-angle lens.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hannett whose telephone number is 571-272-7309. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James M. Hannett
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

JMH
August 18, 2005